

Bowl-a-thon benefits mentoring organization

By Aaron Swarts - SAN JOAQUIN BUREAU

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MANTECA -- Lanes are still open for those interested in participating in the Fifth Annual Give Every Child a Chance Bowl-a-thon to be held Feb. 28 at StrikeZone International in Manteca.

The event is one of two major fund-raisers held every year by the nonprofit volunteer student mentoring organization.

"This is a fun event with 100 percent of the proceeds going into our programs," said Carol Davis, chief executive of Give Every Child a Chance. "Our other big fund-raiser, 'A Night of Queens and Kings' is an adult casino night, so this is something the entire family can participate in together."

The night features teams as well as individual bowlers. Each participant must raise a minimum of \$50 to bowl or a team total of \$250. Each player will receive two games of bowling, along with shoes and a shirt.

"We often have different organizations or families challenging each other," Davis said. "Firefighters will take on firefighters and banks will challenge other banks. Everyone has a good time raising money."

If someone wants to support the bowl-a-thon, but not participate, they have the option of sponsoring a local youth.

"We have plenty of kids that don't normally get the opportunity to go bowling," Davis said.

All youth bowlers will also have the opportunity to earn additional prizes such as pizza, certificates, movie passes and more. The school that collects the most pledges will receive a complete computer package or a \$500 school shopping spree.

Last year, the bowl-a-thon raised more than \$30,000 for Give Every Child a Chance. The money was used to assist the 797 students who took advantage of the organization's after school tutoring and mentoring programs. This year officials expect to help more than 1,000 students.

For more information, or to participate in the bowl-a-thon call (209) 825-7003.

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